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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KU](#) [KDMR](#)

SUBJECT: KUWAIT MEDIA REACTION, AUGUST 18-20: UN
HEADQUARTERS BOMBING; SENATOR MCCAIN DELEGATION; IRAQI
GOVERNING COUNCIL

[11.](#) SUMMARY: All newspapers report strong denunciations by the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Information of the bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad. Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad condemned the "terrorist attack" which "targeted the lives of innocent employees and obstructed UN humanitarian efforts aimed at assisting our Iraqi brothers." Condolences and condemnations from a congressional delegation led by Senator John McCain visiting Kuwait received front page coverage.

On August 20, a delegation from the Iraqi Governing Council was to arrive in Kuwait as part of a Gulf tour, one daily reports. Commentators reiterate Kuwaiti support for the council, and criticize the Arab League and Arab countries withholding recognition due to "its lack of elected legitimacy." One commentator writes that "these countries talk about the election issue as if their people had directly elected their leaders." END SUMMARY

[12.](#) News Stories: All newspapers front page Kuwaiti government denunciations of the attack on the UN headquarters in Baghdad. Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad sent a condolence cable to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan condemning the attack which "targeted the lives of innocent employees and obstructed UN humanitarian efforts aimed at assisting our Iraqi brothers." Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Sabah described the bombing as a "cowardly attack," and reaffirmed Kuwait's "full support for the vital role played by the UN to maintain international peace and security."

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports that Minister of Information, Mohammed Abul Hasan stated that "Saddam's cronies and the ousted regime are undoubtedly behind this explosion due to the UN's efforts to legitimize the current situation in Iraq." He added that the Iraqi people were the most hurt by yesterday's explosion.

Al-Watan, Al-Rai Al-Aam and Al-Anba report on comments by Senator John McCain and other members of his delegation upon their arrival in Kuwait on August 19 after visiting Iraq earlier that day. Headlines follow:

Al-Watan, front page: "Senator McCain from Kuwait:
Terrorists in Iraq are entering from Syria and Iran."

Al-Rai Al-Aam, front page: "An American official suspects
Ansar Al-Islam; Congressional delegation reaffirms 'the
crime will not pass without punishment.'"

Al-Anba: "Members of Congress offered their condolences to the families of the victims: Terrorism will not prevent us from continuing to rebuild."

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports that a delegation from the Iraqi Interim Governing Council, headed by its president, Ibrahim Al-Jafari, arrive in Kuwait today as part of a Gulf tour. Minister of Information, Mohammed Abul Hasan, said "Al-Jafari is not here to sell a product. Receiving him in Kuwait is an acknowledgement of his legitimacy and proof of future cooperation with Iraq."

Editorials:

[13.](#) "The Arab World"
Liberal Salah Al-Sayer wrote in independent Al-Anba (8/18):
"In spite of the UN resolution to recognize the Interim Governing Council, some Arab countries are still insisting on not dealing with it, saying that the Iraqi people did not directly elect the council. These countries talk about the election issue as if their people had directly elected their leaders. The position of some Arab countries towards the Interim Governing Council serves the interests of their political regimes. It goes without saying that the success of the American project [in Iraq] will give birth to a new

era and spread democracy, transparency, and respect for human rights, and will constitute an overwhelming threat to political regimes of these Arab countries."

14. "Welcome to the Interim Governing Council Delegation"
Fahed Al-Ali wrote in independent Al-Qabas (8/20): "Both Iraqis and Kuwaitis paid dearly for the destruction of their countries [by Saddam Hussein], but Iraq today is striving to turn a new page in order to take its role in the international community. Kuwait is concerned about the political stability in Iraq, looks forward to Iraq's cooperation in finally resolving the POW issue. Kuwait welcomes the delegation and we hope that future relations will be based on wide cooperation between the two countries."

15. "The Interim Governing Council Deserves Recognition and Support"
Ayed Al-Manna wrote in independent Al-Watan (8/20): "Iraq's Interim Governing Council is the true representative of all Iraq's sects, despite the fact that it is appointed, not elected. This is not a negative point if the Council is striving to build a solid base for a new regime. Arabs should recognize this Council as legitimate and far better than Saddam's regime in order to accelerate the departure of the foreign forces from Iraq."

16. "An Institution That Has Lost Its Credibility"
Ali Al-Baghli Duaij wrote in independent Al-Qabas (8/19): "The Secretary General of the Arab League Amer Musa is campaigning against the legitimacy of the Interim Governing Council in Iraq under the pretext that it does not represent all Iraqis. Once again, the Arab League has thrown its weight against the will of the Iraqi people by not recognizing Iraq's Interim Governing Council. This is a clear indication that the Arab League had lost its credibility."

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